

Guidelines For Safe Jumps

While there are relatively few parachute accidents, the ones that do happen generally are fatal. FM 57-220, *Basic Parachuting Techniques and Training*, provides further guidance for safe parachute operations. In addition, commanders and other leaders can use the following checklist to manage the risks inherent in parachute operations.

- ☐ Have conditions on the drop zone (DZ) been reviewed?
- ☐ Have actions been rehearsed that are to be conducted on the DZ?
- ☐ Are obstacles on and around the DZ marked?
- ☐ Have parachute landing falls been reviewed?
- ☐ Have emergency landing procedures been reviewed?
- ☐ Are corrective lenses worn by personnel who require them?
- ☐ Are loads limited to jumper's capability?
(Excess weight will increase the probability of a weak exit.)
- ☐ Are soldiers trained on 1-second interval and correct exit procedures?
- ☐ Have towed-parachutist procedures, equipment tiedowns, and accidental reserve activations been emphasized?
- ☐ Have reserve parachute activation procedures been reviewed for the new MIRPS?
- ☐ For night jumps, have all jumpers gone through the five points of performance? (Place special emphasis on getting into the fifth point ASAP; it is sometimes difficult to determine altitude at night.)
- ☐ Are only red lights used for 30 minutes before and during night jumps?
(Use of white lights may degrade jumpers' night vision.)
- ☐ Are night halo jumps rehearsed during daylight when the situation permits?
- ☐ Is an experienced buddy assigned to assist inexperienced jumpers?
- ☐ Do jumpmasters know and identify the correct release point?
- ☐ Are door bundles used for extra equipment and ammunition?
- ☐ Has crossloading plan been reviewed?
- ☐ Have aircraft crash drills been conducted?
- ☐ Has drop zone been verified as current and authorized?
- ☐ Are all jumpmasters current and qualified?